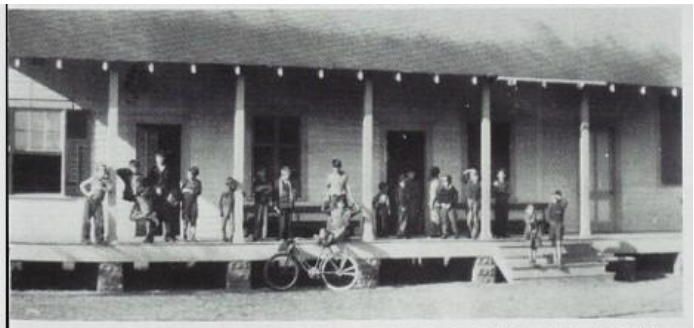
Retro #7: The Back School

In 1869 the Brothers opened a Free Day School for elementary age boys in Bay St. Louis whose parents could not afford the tuition at St. Stanislaus. It was a one-room building near the huge oak tree close to the present cemetery on Hancock and Bookter streets. It was usually referred to as the Back School because it was behind St. Stanislaus which was on Front Street, the former name of Beach Boulevard. In the 1870s the school enrolled about sixty boys in grades one to eight taught by one Brother. The room had eight rows of benches, one for each grade level. The Back School operated for almost 100 years until 1966. Hurricane Camille in 1969 destroyed the building.



St. Stanislaus Free Day School, called the Back School, in the 1940s

DIOCESE OF NATCHEZ

GRAMMAR GRADES

This certifies that Bernie Piazza having completed in a satisfactory manner the course of Instruction prescribed for the Eighth Grade of St. Stanislaus Free Day School is hereby awarded this

CERTIFICATE

and is entitled to admission to any High School Room at Bay St. Louis, Miss. this the 2nd day of May, 1944

Bernie Piazza's 1944 Free Day School diploma.

Br. Florent Favier, teacher at the Back School for 18 years, poses with some of his students in 1941. *Front:* Nolan Kingston, Ralph Hille, Van Fayard, Dickie Curran, Rene Cuevas, Albert Garcis, Joseph Garcia, and A. C. Carver. *Middle:* Evan Ladner, Jack Arnold, Henry Prevost, Torres LeBrun, Charles Bouis, and Andrew Giveans. *Back:* Rogers Reinike, Alcee Giveans, Bernie Piazza, Harold Saucier, Raymond Drew, Raymond Benvenutti, and Bobby Fayard.

1933 Grades 1-4

Br. Xavier Werneth, March 2025